

FORM PTO-1390
(REV 07/01)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

BDL-355XX

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 36 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/913448

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/FR00/00378INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
15 February 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
15 February 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

FIBRE WITH IMPROVED COMPLEXATION QUALITIES AND CATION-EXCHANGE PROPERTIES

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Marek Weltrowski, Michel Morcellet, Bernard Martel

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:

Verification of Translation of PCT/FR00/00378

Express Mail Number

EL 751778924 US

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
09/913448		PCT/FR00/00378		BDL-355XX	

<p>17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,000.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</p> <p>Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">CLAIMS</th> <th style="width: 20%;">NUMBER FILED</th> <th style="width: 20%;">NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th style="width: 20%;">RATE</th> <th style="width: 20%;"></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Total claims</td> <td>10 - 20 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>X \$18.00</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent claims</td> <td>3 - 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>X \$80.00</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)</td> <td>+ \$270.00</td> <td>\$-</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</td> <td>\$860.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.</td> <td>\$430.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: right;">SUBTOTAL =</td> <td>\$430.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).</td> <td>\$-</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</td> <td>\$430.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property</td> <td>\$40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</td> <td>\$470.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Amount to be refunded:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">charged:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table>	CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		Total claims	10 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$0	Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00	\$0	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$-	TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$860.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$430.00	SUBTOTAL =				\$430.00	Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$-	TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$430.00	Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$40.00	TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$470.00					Amount to be refunded:	\$					charged:	\$	<p>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</p>
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE																																																																	
Total claims	10 - 20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$0																																																																
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00	\$0																																																																
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$-																																																																
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$860.00																																																																
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$430.00																																																																
SUBTOTAL =				\$430.00																																																																
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$-																																																																
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$430.00																																																																
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$40.00																																																																
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$470.00																																																																
				Amount to be refunded:	\$																																																															
				charged:	\$																																																															

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 430.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. A check in the amount of \$ 40.00 is enclosed for the assignment recordation fee.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

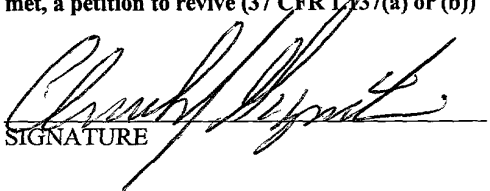
c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0804. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.437(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.
Customer Number 207

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Weingarten, Schurgin, Gagnebin & Hayes LLP
 Ten Post Office Square
 Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Date: 8-14-01


 SIGNATURE

 NAME: Charles L. Gagnebin III
 REGISTRATION NUMBER: 25,467

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application : MAREK WELTROWSKI, ET AL.
Application No. :
Filed : Herewith
For : FIBRE WITH IMPROVED COMPLEXATION
QUALITIES AND CATION-EXCHANGE
PROPERTIES
Examiner :
Attorney's Docket : BDL-355XX

Group Art Unit:

* * * * *
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an
envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington,
D.C. 20231 on _____.

By: _____
Charles L. Gagnebin III
Registration No. 25,467
Attorney for Applicant(s)

* * * * *
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the
above-identified application:

Express Mail Number

EL 751778924 US

In the Title:

Please amend the title on the English translation of the specification to read:

FIBRE WITH IMPROVED COMPLEXATION QUALITIES

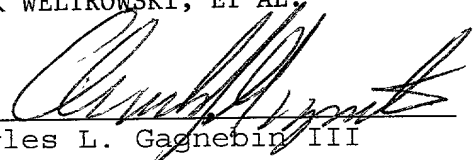
AND CATION-EXCHANGE PROPERTIES

REMARKS

The title has been amended to conform with the title on the published PCT application.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
MAREK WELTROWSKI, ET AL.

By: 
Charles L. Gagnebin III
Registration No. 25,467
Attorney for Applicants

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN
& HAYES LLP
Ten Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 542-2290
Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

Date: 8-14-1

CLG:kmw/256372-1

09/913448

A FIBER OR FIBER-BASED MATERIAL WITH IMPROVED COMPLEXING
AND CATION EXCHANGE PROPERTIES; A PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
SAID FIBERS

The present invention relates to a process for
5 treating a fiber or a fiber-based material to improve its
adsorption (complexing) properties. The present
invention also relates to a fiber or fiber-based
material, such as a textile, with improved adsorption
properties.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Improving the complexing properties of fibers allows
different active compounds such as fragrances,
insecticides, bactericidal agents, antistatic agents,
anti-bacterial agents or repellent agents to be adsorbed
15 onto a fiber or fiber-based material. Because the
adsorbed active product subsequently diffuses into the
surrounding atmosphere (release), the complexing
phenomenon, which occurs in the fibers, endows the fiber
or any material containing it with the different chemical
20 properties of the adsorbed product for a set period that
depends on the rate of diffusion of the complexed product
(release rate).

One known method for improving the adsorbent
properties of a fiber is fixing (grafting) molecules of
25 cyclodextrin(s) onto the fiber.

Cyclodextrins (α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin and γ -
cyclodextrin) have long been known to be molecules
possessing complexing properties, i.e., molecules that
are capable of reversibly trapping certain other small
30 molecules of a hydrophobic nature, in particular
aliphatic or aromatic molecules, from their solutions,
vapors or solid mixtures. The adsorbed molecules are
bonded to the cyclodextrin by the formation of inclusion
complexes.

35 The release rate of the product complexed by
cyclodextrins is small, so fibers functionalized by
cyclodextrins are perfectly suited to produce fiber-based

Express Mail Number

EL 751778924 US

materials, in particular textiles, which possess the chemical properties of the complexed product in a stable manner and for long periods, and also to produce adsorbent materials. These adsorbent materials have a number of applications, in particular in water purification and contaminated gas purification.

Textile materials functionalized with cyclodextrins with adsorbed fragrances, antistatic agents, antimicrobial agents, insect repellents, bactericidal agents, or insecticides, have been respectively described in the following documents: Japanese patent JP-A-06-116871, United States patent US-A-5 376 287, JP-A-09 315920, JP-A-04-263617, JP-A-09-228144, JP-A-05-311509, US-A-5 670 456 and JP-A-03-59178.

Textile materials functionalized by cyclodextrins and with hygroscopic and odor adsorption properties have been described in JP-A-06-322670, JP-A-02-127573, JP-A-03-14678, JP-A-08-199478, JP-A-02-251681 and JP-A-163372.

Textiles functionalized with cyclodextrins and used as adsorbents, in particular as barriers to contaminants, have been described in US-A-5 776 842.

These examples are not limiting. Potential applications for textiles functionalized with cyclodextrins have been cited by Denter and Schollmeyer in the document "Proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on Cyclodextrins", Budapest, Hungary, 1996, J. Szejtli and L. Szenté Eds, Kluwer Academic Publishers.

The principal technical difficulty in producing fibers and textiles functionalized by cyclodextrins or their inclusion complexes is to fix molecules of cyclodextrin(s) or their inclusion complexes onto fibers and textile materials in a durable manner. A number of fixing methods has been developed.

US-A-4 357 468 describes a method for fixing cyclodextrin(s) using epichlorhydrin.

European patent EP-A-0 697 415, German patent DE-A-19520967 and Denter U., Schollmeyer E., J. Inclusion Phenom. Mol. Recognit. Chem. 25(1-3), 197-202 (1996) describe a method for fixing cyclodextrins using
5 chlorinated heterocyclic compounds.

EP-A-0 488 294 and JP-A-03-59178 disclose a fixing method using reactive aminosiloxanes and siloxanes.

US-A-5 098 793 describes polymers obtained by reacting cyclodextrin with an activated dicarboxylic
10 acid. Such polymers form a film that adheres to the surface of a substrate that can be a cellulose substrate, for example. They do not contain any residual carboxylic acid functions because they come from dicarboxylic acid and since both of its carboxylic acid functions have been
15 reacted.

JP-A-06-322670 describes a fixing method using a resin based on an aminosilicone and/or polyurethane.

JP-A-02-127573 describes a fixing method using a polymer (Hercosett 57) obtained by cross-linking a
20 polyamide with epichlorhydrin.

JP-A-09-228144 describes a fixing method by incorporating cyclodextrins or their inclusion complexes into the chemical fiber spinning dope.

Finally, DE-A-4035378 describes a method for fixing
25 cyclodextrin(s) or cyclodextrin derivative(s) using reactants carrying dimethylol urea groups or derivatives of such groups that react both with a hydroxyl group of the cyclodextrin and with a functional group of the fiber, bonding the cyclodextrin molecule to the fiber.

30 OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention proposes a novel method for fixing cyclodextrin(s) or cyclodextrin derivative(s) that can fix molecules of cyclodextrin(s) or cyclodextrin derivative(s) in a durable manner to a fiber or a fiber
35 based material such as a textile, regardless of the nature of the fiber or fiber-based material under consideration.

The present invention concerns a process for treating a fiber or a fiber-based material such as a yarn, a woven, knitted or nonwoven textile material, paper, leather, or a material based on wood fibers, to improve its adsorption properties, wherein the following successive operations are carried out on said fiber or said material: applying a solid mixture of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or their inclusion complexes, at least one poly(carboxylic) acid and/or at least one poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride and optionally a catalyst, heating to a temperature in the range 150°C to 220°C, washing with water and drying the product obtained.

The above inclusion complexes can, for example, be formed from an active agent complexed by a molecule of cyclodextrin or a cyclodextrin derivative. A material treated with an inclusion complex has a better guarantee of cyclodextrin complexing properties; the presence of a complexed agent retains accessibility to the cavity of the cyclodextrin.

The process of the present invention is of particular advantage in that it is applicable to any natural or artificial fiber and to any type of fiber-based material such as a textile material, paper or leather, which is capable of tolerating a heating step without undergoing either physical or chemical degradation. In particular, the process of the invention is applicable to fibers and to yarns composed of natural and artificial cellulose fibers, natural and artificial protein fibers, synthetic fibers such as polyesters, polyamides, acrylics, aramids, fluorofibers, or mineral fibers and to fiber-based materials and textiles of the woven, knitted or nonwoven type and containing one or more types of the above yarns and fibers.

The molecules of cyclodextrin(s) are fixed to the fiber or fiber-based material by two mechanisms that

depend on the chemical nature of the fiber or the fiber-based material.

When treating fibers or materials composed of fibers comprising a hydroxyl and/or amine function, implementing the process of the invention initially forms an anhydride of the poly(carboxylic) acid that reacts with the fiber or fiber-based material by forming a covalent amide or ester type bond between the fiber or the fibers of the treated material and the poly(carboxylic) acid. Then, in the simplest case, a second poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride is formed bonded to the fiber; this reacts with a molecule of cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivative by creating an ester bond between the molecule of cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivative and that of the poly(carboxylic) acid. Possible formation of an anhydride from a further carboxyl function of the poly(carboxylic) acid bonded to the fiber then allows a reaction with a further molecule of cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivative. In that reaction, one or more molecules of cyclodextrin(s) or cyclodextrin derivative(s) is obtained bonded via an ester function to a molecule of poly(carboxylic) acid which is itself bonded to a fiber via a covalent bond.

Further, a second type of reaction may occur, either in parallel with or independently of the reaction fixing the cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivative to the fiber via a covalent bond. Because of the presence of poly(carboxylic) acid, a copolymer of cyclodextrin and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or their inclusion complexes with poly(carboxylic) acid(s) is formed; this copolymerization produces copolymers that are either linear, branched or cross-linked.

When the copolymer forms from a molecule of cyclodextrin fixed to the fiber via a covalent bond, it therefore has at least one covalent bond with a fiber. When the copolymer forms from molecules of poly(carboxylic) acid and/or poly(carboxylic) acid

anhydride and cyclodextrin and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) not bonded to a fiber, if it is cross-linked, i.e., forms a three-dimensional network mingling with or coating the fiber or the fibers of a fiber-based material, it may be mechanically fixed in a permanent manner to the fiber or material under consideration.

The basic mechanism using a molecule of poly(carboxylic) acid and a molecule of cyclodextrin or a cyclodextrin derivative is most probably similar to the mechanism for cross-linking cellulose with poly(carboxylic) acids in the presence of a catalyst proposed by Welsh C. M. in American Dyestuff Reporter 83(9), 19-26 (1994). Such a treatment, described in particular in US-A-4 820 307 and carried out on cotton cellulose, renders cotton textiles crease-resistant by cross-linking cotton fibers. However, that process is intended to modify the physical properties of a textile material exclusively constituted by cellulose fibers, such as cotton, and not to modify the adsorption properties of a fiber or a fiber-based material by fixing cyclodextrin(s) or cyclodextrin derivative(s) to the fiber or to the structure of the fiber-based material, independently of the chemical nature of that fiber or material, as in the present invention.

Further, certain synthetic fibers or materials based on such fibers do not possess functional groups that can react with the mechanism proposed above. In this case, the cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or their inclusion complexes are fixed by forming a cross-linked copolymer obtained by exclusive reaction between the molecules of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and at least one poly(carboxylic) acid. The cross-linked copolymer formed coats the fiber or the fiber-based material in a permanent manner.

In the case of a fiber comprising an amine or hydroxyl function, such as keratinous or cellulose

fibers, or a material comprising such fibers, the two fixing mechanisms coexist, namely fixing via a covalent bond to the fiber and forming a sheath of cross-linked copolymer on the fiber.

5 The complexing properties of the cyclodextrins described above are supplemented by those of the residual carboxylic acid functions which have not reacted by esterification, either with the fiber or with the cyclodextrin. These carboxylic acid functions endow the
10 fibers not only with odor absorption properties but also with cation exchange properties. On the other hand, these carboxylic acid functions endow the fibers with better affinity for water (hydrophilic nature) and improve the wettability of the treated material, in
15 particular for materials based on slightly hydrophilic or hydrophobic fibers.

 A further advantage of the process of the invention is that it is cheap, easy to carry out using equipment that is conventional in the textile industry and that it
20 does not necessitate the use of toxic reactants.

 In a preferred implementation, the solid mixture is applied by impregnating the fiber or fiber-based material with an aqueous solution of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or their inclusion
25 complexes, at least one poly(carboxylic) acid and/or at least one poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride and optionally, a catalyst, then drying the impregnated fiber or impregnated fiber-based material.

 This impregnation and drying allows better
30 incorporation of the solid reactive mixture into the fibers or causes it to penetrate it into the fibers, which subsequently facilitates both the reaction fixing the cyclodextrin to the fiber and obtaining a uniform deposit or coat of the copolymer onto the fiber or the
35 fibers of a fiber-based material.

 In a preferred variation, the fiber or fiber-based material is dried at a temperature in the range 40°C to

150°C, preferably 110°C or substantially 110°C before the heating operation proper, at a temperature in the range 150°C to 220°C.

5 This prior drying step is particularly recommended in the case of natural fibers such as wool or cotton, to prevent their thermal degradation.

This prior drying is advantageously carried out to obtain a solid mixture incorporated into the fiber or the fibers of the fiber-based material treated using the process of the invention, this drying being that following impregnation by an aqueous solution as described above.

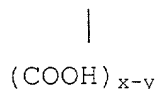
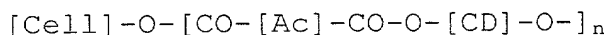
Heating proper is intended to permanently fix molecules of cyclodextrin(s) to the fiber or fiber-based material, by reaction between poly(carboxylic) acid and/or poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride and the fiber or fiber-based material (chemical grafting by covalent bonding between the fiber and the molecule of cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivative, or the copolymer of cyclodextrin(s) and poly(carboxylic) acid(s) and/or by reaction between the poly(carboxylic) acid and the cyclodextrin and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) to form a cross-linked copolymer (mechanical grafting by coating).

Preferably, the poly(carboxylic) acid and poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride used in the process of the invention are selected from the following poly(carboxylic) acids and poly(carboxylic) acid anhydrides: saturated and unsaturated acyclic poly(carboxylic) acids, saturated and unsaturated cyclic poly(carboxylic) acids, aromatic poly(carboxylic) acids, hydroxypoly(carboxylic) acids, preferably selected from citric acid, poly(acrylic) acid, poly(methacrylic) acid, 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid, maleic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, 1,2,3-propanetricarboxylic acid, aconitic acid, all-cis-1,2,3,4-cyclopentanetetracarboxylic acid, mellitic acid, oxydisuccinic acid, and thiodisuccinic acid.

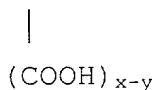
Preferably, the mixture contains a catalyst selected from dihydrogen phosphates, hydrogen phosphates, phosphates, hypophosphites, alkali metal phosphites, alkali metal salts of polyphosphoric acids, carbonates, bicarbonates, acetates, borates, alkali metal hydroxides, aliphatic amines and ammonia, preferably selected from sodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate and sodium hypophosphite.

Preferably, the cyclodextrin is selected from α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin and γ -cyclodextrin and the cyclodextrin derivatives are selected from hydroxypropyl, methyl or acetyl derivatives of α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin and γ -cyclodextrin and inclusion complexes formed from said cyclodextrins and said cyclodextrin derivatives.

The present invention also concerns fibers or fiber-based materials preferably obtained using the process described above, which are selected from fibers or fiber-based materials that comprise a hydroxyl function and/or an amine function and which are bonded, via a covalent bond of an ester or amide type, to at least one molecule of cyclodextrin or to an inclusion complex of cyclodextrin or to a linear and/or branched and/or cross-linked compound of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or to an inclusion complex with at least one poly(carboxylic) acid and wherein the structure comprises the repetition of a unit with general formula:



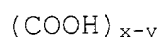
or



where $2 < y < x-2$; $x \geq 3$ and
 n is 1 or more, and in which:

[Cell] represents the macromolecular chain of a
 natural or artificial cellulose fiber;

5 [Ker] represents the macromolecular chain of a
 natural or artificial protein fiber;



|

[Ac]

10 represents the molecular chain of a poly(carboxylic)
 acid



|

[Ac]

15 where at least two carboxylic acid functions $(\text{COOH})_y$
 have undergone esterification and/or amidation and which
 comprises at least one carboxylic acid function $(\text{COOH})_{x-y}$
 that has not undergone an esterification or amidation
 reaction; and

20 [CD] represents the molecular structure of α -
 cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin γ -cyclodextrin, a derivative
 of cyclodextrin(s), preferably a hydroxypropyl, methyl or
 acetyl α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin or γ -cyclodextrin
 derivative, or an inclusion complex of said cyclodextrins
 25 or said cyclodextrin derivatives.

The -O-CO- ester bond originates from the reaction
 between the hydroxyl function of the cellulose fiber and
 the carboxylic function of the poly(carboxylic) acid,
 while the amide bond -NH-CO- originates from the reaction
 30 between the amine function of the keratinous fiber and
 the carboxylic function of the poly(carboxylic) acid.
 The poly(carboxylic) acid undergoes an esterification
 and/or amidation reaction of at least two of its
 carboxylic acid functions and the cyclodextrin or
 35 cyclodextrin derivative undergoes esterification with the
 poly(carboxylic) acid of at least one of its hydroxyl
 functions.

In the case of a fiber or a fiber-based material that does not react with poly(carboxylic) acids, the fiber or material obtained by the process of the invention is simply coated with a cross-linked copolymer of cyclodextrin(s) and poly(carboxylic) acid(s). In contrast, when the fiber or fiber-based material is based on cellulose and/or keratin or comprises hydroxyl and/or amine functions, the molecules of cyclodextrin(s) are fixed to the fiber or fiber-based material in accordance with the two fixing modes described above, namely direct fixation by covalent bonding to the fiber and coating of the fiber with a cross-linked copolymer.

The present invention accommodates these two types of fibers or materials, whether or not obtained by the process of the invention. The present invention concerns fibers or fiber-based materials onto which molecules of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) are fixed only by covalent bonding, fibers or fiber-based materials onto which molecules of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) are fixed by covalent bonding and by coating the fiber or fibers of the material with a cross-linked copolymer of cyclodextrin(s), and fibers or fiber-based materials onto which cyclodextrin is fixed solely by coating with a cross-linked copolymer, without limitation to the nature or structure of said fibers or said fiber-based materials.

The materials can, for example, be knitted, woven or nonwoven textiles containing cellulose and/or keratinous fibers and/or synthetic fibers. Such fibers or fiber-based materials comprising carboxylic acid functions possess excellent odor adsorption properties and, to a lesser extent, improved water absorption properties.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will be better understood from the following non-limiting examples, which better illustrate the characteristics of the process of the

invention and the fibers and fiber-based materials of the present invention.

Examples 1 to 11 illustrate the process of the present invention. Examples 12 and 13 illustrate the adsorbent properties of the materials of the present invention and their possible use, in particular for the production of mosquito-proof clothing and mosquito nets.

EXAMPLE 1

5 grams (g) of a bleached cotton fabric with a weight of 100 grams/meter² (g/m²) was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 grams/liter (g/l)), citric acid (100 g/l) and sodium hydrogen phosphate [12-hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 18%.

EXAMPLE 2

5 g of a bleached cotton fabric with a weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 g/l), citric acid (100 g/l) and sodium dihydrogen phosphate [hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 3 minutes at 195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 13%.

EXAMPLE 3

5 g of a bleached cotton fabric with a weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 g/l), citric acid (100 g/l) and sodium hypophosphite [hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at

195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 12%.

EXAMPLE 4

5 g of a bleached cotton fabric with a weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 g/l), 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid (100 g/l), and sodium dihydrogen phosphate [hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 18%.

EXAMPLE 5

5 g of a bleached cotton fabric with a weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 g/l), polyacrylic acid (100 g/l) and sodium hypophosphite [hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 19%.

EXAMPLE 6

5 g of a bleached cotton fabric with a weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing γ -cyclodextrin (150 g/l), 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid (100 g/l) and sodium hypophosphite [hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 22%.

EXAMPLE 7

5 g of a bleached cotton fabric with a weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing α -cyclodextrin (150 g/l), polyacrylic acid (100 g/l) and sodium hypophosphite [hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 22%.

EXAMPLE 8

5 g of a wool fabric with a weight of 120 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (150 g/l), 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid (100 g/l), and sodium hypophosphite [hydrate] (60 g/l). The take-up was 100%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 195°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 20%.

EXAMPLE 9

5 g of a hydrolyzed polyester fabric with a weight of 130 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 g/l), citric acid (100 g/l), and sodium hydrogen phosphate [12-hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 90%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 190°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 19%.

EXAMPLE 10

5 g of a polyester fabric with a weight of 100 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an

aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 g/l), citric acid (100 g/l), and sodium hydrogen phosphate [12-hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 32%. The fabric was dried for 3 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 190°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 6%.

EXAMPLE 11

5 g of a polyacrylonitrile knitted fabric with a weight of 300 g/m² was impregnated, with the aid of a mangle, with an aqueous solution containing β -cyclodextrin (100 g/l), citric acid (100 g/l) and sodium hydrogen phosphate [12-hydrate] (30 g/l). The take-up was 90%. The fabric was dried for 7 minutes at 90°C, then treated for 5 minutes at 180°C, washed with copious quantities of water and dried. The dry weight gain for the fabric was 8%.

EXAMPLE 12

This example illustrates the adsorbent properties of fabrics functionalized with β -cyclodextrin using the process of the invention. Cyclodextrins are known to be capable of forming inclusion complexes with phenolphthalein. Six samples of fabric functionalized with β -cyclodextrin using the process of the invention, with a known mass and containing different quantities of β -cyclodextrin were placed in solutions of phenolphthalein with known concentrations. The variation in the concentration of free phenolphthalein in each solution ($A_0 - A_{96}$) was measured by visible spectroscopy at 552.4 nanometers (nm) after 96 hours. The changes in phenolphthalein concentration, expressed as the variation in the optical density per gram of functionalized fabric, are shown in the table below:

Weight ratio of β -cyclodextrin fixed to fabric (%)	0	1.8	3.6	5.4	6.0	6.6
A ₀ -A ₉₆ /g of fabric	0.5	1.3	1.8	2.2	2.4	2.6

The ratio of cyclodextrin fixed to the textiles was measured using the difference in dry weight gain between a fabric treated with a cyclodextrin/poly(carboxylic) acid/catalyst mixture and a fabric treated with a poly(carboxylic) acid/catalyst mixture.

EXAMPLE 13

This example illustrates the use of textile materials of the invention obtained by the process of the invention as textiles with mosquito repellent properties. Diethyltoluamide (DEET) is a well known, widely used synthetic mosquito repellent. Three samples of cotton fabric with a known weight functionalized with cyclodextrins and obtained using the process of the invention using citric acid, sodium hydrogen phosphate [12-hydrate] and α -, β - and γ -cyclodextrins were placed in solutions of DEET of known concentration. Adsorption of DEET onto the textile materials was determined by measuring the change in absorbance of the initial solution at 270 nm after 96 hours. The results are shown in the table below:

Sample	Type of cyclodextrin used for functionalization	Weight gain after functionalization (%)	A ₀ -A ₉₆ /g of fabric
1	α -cyclodextrin	14	0.24
2	β -cyclodextrin	15	0.36
3	γ -cyclodextrin	15	0.34

The samples cited above were successfully tested as mosquito-repellent textiles. The repellent properties of the fabrics were evaluated after impregnation with DEET and after the following treatments: aging by exposure to air for several weeks, irradiation using a UV lamp, raising the temperature, and washing with water. In some cases, the control based on cotton not functionalized with cyclodextrin, simply impregnated with DEET and which had undergone an identical treatment, had lost 100% of its effectiveness, while the fabrics of the present invention, which had been impregnated with DEET, retained 100% of their mosquito repellent activity.

CLAIMS

1. A process for treating a fiber or a fiber-based material such as a yarn, a woven, knitted or nonwoven textile material, paper, leather, or a material based on wood fibers, to improve its adsorption properties, wherein the following successive operations are carried out on said fiber or said material:
- a) applying a solid mixture of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or inclusion complex(es) of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s), at least one poly(carboxylic) acid and/or at least one poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride and optionally a catalyst;
 - b) heating to a temperature in the range 150°C to 220°C;
 - c) washing with water; and
 - d) drying.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the solid mixture is applied by impregnating the fiber or fiber-based material with an aqueous solution of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or inclusion complex(es) of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s), at least one poly(carboxylic) acid and/or at least one poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride and optionally, a catalyst, then drying the impregnated fiber or impregnated fiber-based material.
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the fiber or fiber-based material is dried at a temperature in the range 40°C to 150°C, preferably 110°C or substantially 110°C before the heating operation proper, at a temperature in the range 150°C to 220°C.
4. A process according to claim 1, wherein the poly(carboxylic) acid and poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride

are selected from the following poly(carboxylic) acids and poly(carboxylic) acid anhydrides: saturated and unsaturated acyclic poly(carboxylic) acids, saturated and unsaturated cyclic poly(carboxylic) acids, aromatic poly(carboxylic) acids, hydroxy poly(carboxylic) acids, 5 citric acid, poly(acrylic) acid, poly(methacrylic) acid, 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid, maleic acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, 1,2,3-propane-tricarboxylic acid, aconitic acid, all-cis-1,2,3,4-10 cyclopentanetetracarboxylic acid, mellitic acid, oxydisuccinic acid, and thiodisuccinic acid.

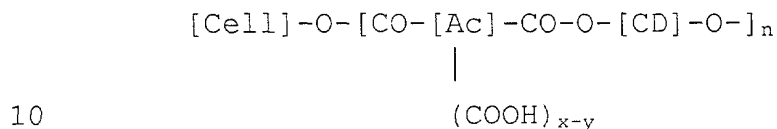
5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst is selected from dihydrogen phosphates, hydrogen 15 phosphates, phosphates, hypophosphites, alkali metal phosphites, alkali metal salts of polyphosphoric acids, carbonates, bicarbonates, acetates, borates, alkali metal hydroxides, aliphatic amines and ammonia, preferably selected from sodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium 20 dihydrogen phosphate and sodium hypophosphite.

6. A process according to claim 1, wherein the cyclodextrin is selected from α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin and γ -cyclodextrin and wherein the 25 cyclodextrin derivatives are selected from hydroxypropyl, methyl or acetyl derivatives of α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin and γ -cyclodextrin and inclusion complexes formed from said cyclodextrins or said cyclodextrin derivatives.

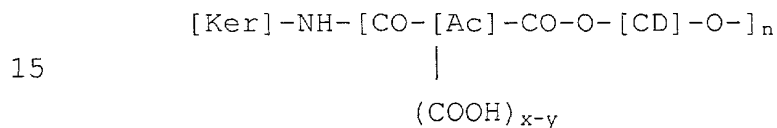
30

7. A fiber or fiber-based material, wherein the fiber or fibers of the fiber-based material is selected from fibers comprising a hydroxyl function and/or an amine function, the fiber or the fibers of said fiber-based 35 material being bonded, via a covalent bond of an ester or amide type, to at least one molecule of cyclodextrin and/or cyclodextrin derivative and/or to an inclusion

complex of cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin derivatives or to
 a linear and/or branched and/or cross-linked compound of
 cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or
 to inclusion complexes of cyclodextrin or cyclodextrin
 5 derivatives and wherein the structure comprises the
 repetition of a unit with general formula:



or



where $2 \leq y < x-2$; $x \geq 3$ and

n is 1 or more, and in which:

20 [Cell] represents the macromolecular chain of a
 natural or artificial cellulose fiber;

[Ker] represents the macromolecular chain of a
 natural or artificial protein fiber;

25 $(\text{COOH})_{x-y}$
 |
 [Ac]
 represents the molecular chain of a poly(carboxylic)
 acid

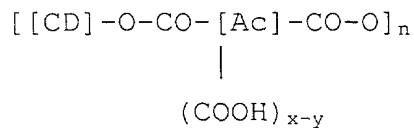
30 $(\text{COOH})_x$
 |
 [Ac]

where at least two carboxylic acid functions $(\text{COOH})_y$
 have undergone esterification or esterification and
 amidation respectively and which carries at least
 35 one carboxylic acid function $(\text{COOH})_{x-y}$ that has not

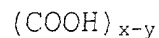
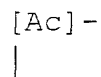
undergone an esterification or amidation reaction;
and

- [CD] represents the molecular structure of α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin or γ -cyclodextrin or a cyclodextrin derivative, preferably a hydroxypropyl, methyl or acetyl α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin or γ -cyclodextrin derivative, or an inclusion complex of said cyclodextrins or said cyclodextrin derivatives.

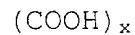
8. A fiber or fiber-based material, wherein said fiber or fiber-based material is coated with a cross-linked copolymer composed of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and at least one poly(carboxylic) acid wherein the structure comprises the repetition of a unit with general formula:



where $2 \leq y < x-2$; $x \geq 3$ and n is 1 or more, and in which:



represents the molecular chain of a poly(carboxylic) acid



where at least two carboxylic acid functions $(\text{COOH})_y$ have undergone esterification and which carries at least one carboxylic acid function $(\text{COOH})_{x-y}$ that has not undergone an esterification reaction; and

- [CD] represents the molecular structure of α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin, γ -cyclodextrin, a cyclodextrin derivative, preferably a hydroxypropyl, methyl or acetyl α -cyclodextrin, β -cyclodextrin or γ -cyclodextrin derivative, or an inclusion complex of said cyclodextrins or said cyclodextrin derivatives.

9. A fiber or fiber-based material according to claim 7, wherein the poly(carboxylic) acid is selected from saturated and unsaturated acyclic poly(carboxylic) acids, saturated and unsaturated cyclic poly(carboxylic) acids, aromatic poly(carboxylic) acids, hydroxy poly(carboxylic) acids, preferably selected from citric acid, poly(acrylic) acid, poly(methacrylic) acid, 1,2,3,4-butanetetracarboxylic acid, 1,2,3-propanetricarboxylic acid, aconitic acid, all-cis-1,2,3,4-cyclopentanetetracarboxylic acid, mellitic acid, oxydisuccinic acid, and thiodisuccinic acid.

10. A fiber or fiber-based material according to claim 7, containing an insecticide or repellent agent forming a complex with molecules of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s).

A B S T R A C T

5 The present invention concerns a process for treating a fiber or a fiber-based material such as a yarn, a woven, knitted or nonwoven textile material, paper, or leather, to improve its adsorption properties, wherein the following successive operations are carried out on said fiber or said material:

- 10 a) applying a solid mixture of cyclodextrin(s) and/or cyclodextrin derivative(s) and/or inclusion complex(es) of cyclodextrin and/or cyclodextrin derivatives, at least one poly(carboxylic) acid and/or at least one poly(carboxylic) acid anhydride and optionally a catalyst;
- 15 b) heating to a temperature in the range 150°C to 220°C;
- c) washing with water; and
- d) drying.

20 The present invention also concerns fibers or fiber-based materials with improved cation exchange properties and improved hydrophilic characteristics.

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **FIBRE WITH IMPROVED COMPLEXATION-QUALITIES AND CATION-EXCHANGE PROPERTIES**

the specification of which (check one):

[] is attached hereto. [] was filed _____ as Application No. _____
amended on _____ (if applicable).

[X] was filed as PCT International Application No. pct/FR00/00378 on FEBRUARY 15, 2000
and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, USC §119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)	Date Filed	Priority Claimed
99.01967 FRANCE (Number) (Country)	15 FEBRUARY 1999 (Day/Month/Year)	[X] [] Yes No
PCT/FR00/00378 FRANCE (Number) (Country)	15 FEBRUARY 2000 (Day/Month/Year)	[X] [] Yes No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, USC §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)	
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)	
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)	Express Mail Number
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)	EL 751778924 US

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35 USC §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 USC §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Patented/pending/abandoned)
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Patented/pending/abandoned)
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Patented/pending/abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business connected therewith in the Patent and Trademark Office, and to file with the USRO any International Application based thereon.

Stanley M. Schurgin, Reg. No. 20,979
 Charles L. Gagnebin III, Reg. No. 25,467
 Paul J. Hayes, Reg. No. 23,307
 Victor B. Labovici, Reg. No. 30,864

Eugene A. Faher, Reg. No. 33,171
 Beverly E. Hjorth, Reg. No. 32,033
 Holliday C. Heine, Reg. No. 34,345
 Gordon R. Moriarty, Reg. No. 38,973

Address all correspondence to:

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN & HAYES LLP
Ten Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
 Telephone: (617) 542-2290
 Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor: Marek WELTROWSKI

City of Residence <u>quebec</u> <u>CAN</u>	State or Country <u>CANADA</u>	Country of Citizenship <u>CANADA</u>
Post Office Address <u>7935 Salomon Brossard</u>	City <u>QUEBEC</u>	State or Country Zip Code <u>J4X 1J2 CANADA</u>

Signature: (Please sign and date in permanent ink.)

X

Date signed:

X

24/07/01

Mel Weltrowski
 Marek Weltrowski

over

Attorney

Docket No.: BDL-355XX

2-00

Full Name of Second Joint Inventor: Michel MORCELLET

City of Residence

VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ FRX

State or Country

FRANCE

Country of Citizenship

FRANCE

Post Office Address

9, allée de la Touraine

City

VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ

State or Country Zip Code

59650

Signature: (Please sign and date in permanent ink.)

X

Michel Morcellet

Date signed:

X

13th July 2001

3-00

Full Name of Third Joint Inventor: Bernard MARTEL

City of Residence

LILLE ERQUINGHEM LYS FRX

State or Country

FRANCE

Country of Citizenship

FRANCE

Post Office Address

~~408 RUE GAMBETTA~~14 RUE DES HIBISCUS

City

~~LILLE~~ERQUINGHEM LYS

State or Country Zip Code

~~59000~~59193

Signature: (Please sign and date in permanent ink.)

X

Bernard Martel

Date signed:

X

13th July 2001

Full Name of Fourth Joint Inventor:

City of Residence

Balma

State or Country

Country of Citizenship

Post Office Address

City

State or Country Zip Code

Signature: (Please sign and date in permanent ink.)

X

Date signed:

X